

My name is Jenny Hartl and I am a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines. I am writing to dissuade the allowing of cell phone usage while on an airplane, in flight.

People on cell phones are not only a distraction for others, it could prove fatal in the air. Getting the attention and cooperation of passengers who are not paying attention because of various reasons is difficult as it is. Imagine doing so with someone on a cell phone.

We are required to personally brief passengers seated in the exit rows before we take off. I have come across many passengers who were on their cell phones and would not get off, or even put the phone down for a few minutes to listen to me. Even then, with a roll of a pair of lackadaisical eyes, they are not really listening to me because they want to get back to their phone conversations.

We, as flight attendants, deal with nervous travelers, medical emergencies, inebriated passengers and anything else that you could possibly imagine. Adding the usage of cell phone to this mix would not only be a mistake, it would be disastrous. I implore those involved with Docket WT 04-435 not to allow it to pass.